

HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER "NEWS"

57 Hartford Street -- Phone: 863-2507 -- Email: hszc108@yahoo.com -- Website: www.hszc.org -- July, 2006

**Congratulations to Rev. Myo Denis Lahey
on the 20th anniversary of his ordination!**

(Quote from one of Myo's 2005 Dharma talks at HSZC)

Find that stillness that is there already. Just find it - let it manifest itself. You don't have to create it. This is not like clearing the forest, going in there with your axe and chopping everything down -- it's not like that. It's wandering into the forest, and there's nothing but trees. This is rather different. And the chopping everything down is another approach that's known, not only in Buddhism but in other spiritual paths, where you try to clear a space. And I'm not putting that down, I'm just saying in the Zen family, they came up with something a little different. If you go into the forest and just sit, you'll find that things get very quiet, and critters come up and look at you, which is kind of fun, actually. If you're in there with a chain saw, just knocking everything down, then eventually yes, you'll have a clear space, but in a way there may be nothing alive in it. So in this corner of the dharma world anyway, we suggest just sitting against a tree as Buddha did, and not doing anything.

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Hartford Street History (Early Years 1981-1984)

Written by founding member, David Bullock

Hartford Street Zen Center formally came into being on 12/8/81. Allen Ginsberg, Zentatsu Baker-roshi, Robert Aitkin-roshi and others from Buddhist communities were early supporters. Even with a small number of members, about 10, there was a sense of deep engagement with the Dharma. The first real hurdle came in 1984 when a complicated partnership of sangha members was formed to purchase the building. After this was achieved, we managed to make the mortgage payments and still buy incense through the generous support of our members and friends and a lot of hard work. In the fall of 1984, HSZC held its first practice period under the direction of visiting teacher Baker-roshi. Tensho David Schneider held the position of Shusho, acting head monk.

About that time, AIDS appeared on the horizon. We didn't know what our involvement with this burgeoning epidemic would be, but our sangha members felt a strong need to be engaged in some direct fashion. Little did we know! (to be continued)



(Outside Buddha in HSZC Garden)

Julia Ten Eyck, President, Board of Directors
Speaks about our Annual General Meeting

On behalf of the HSZC Board of Directors, I'm delighted to welcome our three new Board members: Steve Fricke, Jim Shalkham and John Walmsley, who were elected at our annual meeting. We also welcome back Jennifer Birkett for another term.

Steve, Jim and John will join Jennifer, myself, and returning Board members: Cynthia Kear, Mimi Manning, Larry Pieperl, and Jeff Thomas, with Rev. Myo Lahey as an ex officio member.

The annual meeting confirmed for me that Issan's spirit continues on here. There was a great feeling of positive energy and enthusiasm for practice at HSZC, as well as a deep sense of connectedness and sangha among those present.

Treasurer Jeff Thomas proudly announced we will end our fiscal year (in June) on a positive financial note. We still rely heavily on the generosity of our members and friends, though, and encourage you to support HSZC with your much-needed contributions.

There was also a start of a discussion on "What is lay practice, and what is it that we may need to grow and support our lay practice at HSZC? Your ideas are important to us in this regard. Please drop us a note at hszc108@yahoo.com, or email me at teneyck27@sbcglobal.net. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Many bows, Julia

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MORNING (Monday-Friday)

5:30am-6:10 Zazen - Sitting Meditation
6:10am-6:20 Kinhin - Walking Meditation
6:20am-7:00 Zazen
7:00am-7:20 Chanting (Service)
7:20am-7:35 Soji - Temple Cleaning

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EVENING (Monday-Friday)

6:00pm-6:40 Zazen
6:40pm-6:50 Chanting

SATURDAY MORNING

6:30am-7:15 Zazen
7:15am-7:35 Chanting
7:35am-7:55 Soji
[BREAK]
9:10am-9:50 Zazen
10:00am-11:00 Dharma Talk followed by
tea and cookies and discussion.

SUNDAYS and HOLIDAYS - Closed

RETREATS and INSTRUCTION

- * 1-day retreats (First Saturdays of the month)
- * Zazen instruction (brief form) at 8:30am (2nd and 4th Saturdays); long form 1pm (3rd Saturdays with pre-registration).

SPEAKERS

Upcoming Guest Speakers: We are thrilled that Revs. Greg Fain, Daigaku Rummé, Shinshu Roberts, and Jeffrey Schneider will be at HSZC to give dharma talks in the near future. Check the website or the bulletin boards at HSZC to find out which Saturday they will be here.

Recent Guest Speakers:

Our thanks to Rev. Jana Drakka for her dharma talk on how to study the mind and also to Rev. Jeffrey Schneider for his dharma talk on sexuality and practice.

Did You Know?

Recent dharma talks are available to download and listen to. On the MonkBlog page at hszc.org, click on "podcasts" and you can download past talks and subscribe to the podcast of future talks.

? What's New?

... to be advised of Hartford Street activities, please send us your email address or contact information at hszc108@yahoo.com or call 863-2507. Thanks!



Our Beautiful Zen Garden

By David Bullock 

As many of you know by now, there have been some developments in the back garden of Issanji. And if per chance you don't know, please come on down and take a look.

These developments started with the realization that chaos ruled. Paths that used to lead next door, when HSZC ran Maitri Hospice and we had a double lot, now went nowhere. What seating areas there were, were haphazard and muddy when wet. Many of the plants were situated poorly, sun-lovers in shade or vice versa, or much too close to one another - and the drip irrigation was a mess (it still is but we're working on it). The catalyzing factor for the beginning of the work was the project on the timber bamboo. A new root barrier was put down around the grove. It's escaped a couple of times since it was planted well over fifteen years ago. Will Sprietsma generously donated the funds for this project. (more garden info in future newsletters)



WEB (www.hszc.org) Changes (By Max Swanger)

Hszc.org has undergone some new changes in the past month. The "intro" or "splash" page has been changed to a basic black and white picture of the Buddha statue from the backyard of HSZC. Then, if the user clicks "enter" or the dharma wheel, they go into the main site, which is hosted by "weblogger."

There are a few new links in the left side bar: "media" and "podcasts." If one clicks on "media" they will be bounced over to a site called "ourmedia.org." We digitally record our Saturday morning talks, and ourmedia.org now hosts them free of charge. Also, the talks are then podcasted in "itunes." If the user clicks "podcasts," they can subscribe to our podcasts and receive them automatically.